

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Oleg Shikhman )  
Serial No.: 10/726,031 ) Group Art Unit: 3731  
Filed: December 1, 2003 ) Examiner: Kathleen C. Sonnett  
For: SUTURE LOADING ASSEMBLY ) Confirmation No: 4709  
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**AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In response to the Office Action dated December 3, 2008, the Applicants submit the following amendment and remarks for entry in the above-entitled application.